

First Congregational Messenger  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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*Serving God with love and faith*



May 2023

Volume 5, Issue 103



**Wear Red for Pentecost**

Pentecost Sunday is May 28. This is also Memorial Weekend. Wear red to church that Sunday in honor of the Holy Spirit.

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Monday-Thursday 10-4  
Other times by appointment  
May be out of the office for meetings or visits



**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
8-12

## Morning Prayer

Let all I do be done with thanksgiving. Lord,  
there is no better way to begin a new day—  
even if the sun refuses to break through the  
cloud cover, or if the problems to be faced in  
the coming hours appear too great to bear. It is  
surely my privilege and need to begin each day  
with true thankfulness.

With such confidence and thankfulness I can  
step boldly into this new day, able to face  
any circumstances, to reflect the love of  
God even in the darkest and most difficult  
hours that might come my way. I can do  
all things through Christ who strengthens  
me. Amen

(Prayer by Allan Schreiber)

As I reflect on this prayer, it is already mid-afternoon. So far today, I am grateful for:

- Susan's typing my stuff for the newsletter and bulletin;
- Our fun-loving custodians, Mike and Cindy;
- The kindness of the folks at Precision IT who are helping me fix my church and home computers;
- A good lab report and the kindness and care of my doctor;
- The smile from the young fellow at the drive-thru;
- Sun shining on green grass-now it's here to stay!

So far today, what are you grateful for?

**Pastor's time away-** Pastor Jackie will be on vacation Monday, June 12 through Tuesday, June 27, returning to the office Wednesday, June 28. More info to come on guest preachers and emergency pastoral care.



## Confirmation Meal at First Presbyterian Church

On Friday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 22 people gathered to share a meal and celebrate our Confirmation students: Reese Uzzell (First Congregational), Joel Montalvo, Avery Beckenhauer, and Alex Hardisty (First Presbyterian). Guests also included family members, mentors and Pastor Brian and Pastor Jackie. Women from the Committee for Family Life served lasagna, salad, brownies and root beer floats.

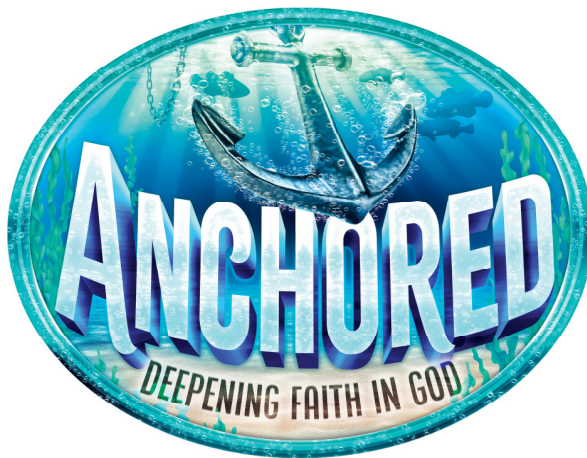
All the adults were invited to share their favorite Bible verse or story and explain why the passage was meaningful to them. In this way, the adults shared their faith and modeled for the students that Confirmation is only the beginning; walking as followers of Christ is a life-long journey.



## SECURITY OFFICER:

The Unity Council of First Congregational United Church of Christ has appointed Benjamin S. Uzzell as our designated security officer during such times as he is present. The Security Officer would be authorized to handle or address any violent altercation that may arise.

This is a follow up to many months of discussions in council, our church's Active Shooter training held last fall and the changing times.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

111 S 9<sup>th</sup> St Norfolk

Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC and First Presbyterian Churches of Norfolk have come together again to provide Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through kids who have completed the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Your older children would be great helpers.

Each evening begins with a light supper. There is no cost to attend, but we would like to have every child pre-register so that we will have enough supplies. REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE TURNED INTO THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OFFICE OR TO YOUR CHURCH BY May 27 to ensure your child receives the correct size t-shirt.

It takes many volunteers to manage a successful VBS and we would love to have your help. If you think you may be able to assist in any way please contact the chairman from one of the three churches. Call Kim Rusk- First Presbyterian, Whitney Kumm, Trinity Episcopal, or Darlene Korthals- First Congregational.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (circle) M or F

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or conditions that may limit activity: \_\_\_\_\_

I can help in the following way(s): Name: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_YS \_\_YM \_\_YL \_\_S \_\_M \_\_L

KENNEDY INDRA  
CLASS OF 2023

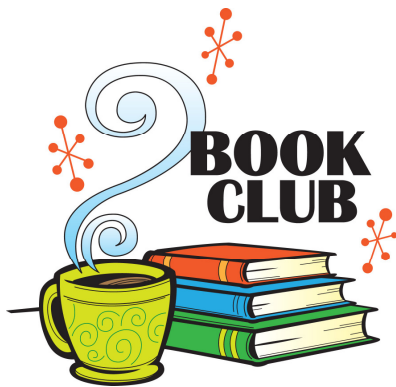


Open House  
111 Driftwood  
Norfolk  
Saturday  
May 20 1-5pm

**Blessing Box for Kennedy.**

You are invited to leave notes and cards of blessing in the **Blessing Box**, located on the table in the narthex , that we will present to her May 14.





Book Club will meet May 10. *The Very Fairy Princess: Here Comes the Flower Girl* by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton. The books can be found in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Jane Uzzell.

**Calling all volunteers to help with VBS**

June 12 and 13. Teachers, meal servers, craft leaders, game leaders, or any other type of volunteer is most welcome. Please contact Darlene Korthals if you can help in any way.



Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget**--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them **Sundays** in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall! Please help out. The gift cards fit right in your billfold by your dollar bills, so it's even easy to remember to use them when you go to pay for your groceries. Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.

**MAY**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Birthdays**

- 15 Cole Williams
- 17 Deanna Alexander
- 23 Reese Uzzell
- 25 Grace Uzzell
- 30 Megan Williams
- 31 Darlene Korthals

**Anniversary**

- 26 Garry and Suzan Podliska



#### **May 7**

**Communion:** Evonne Burkink and Sue Surber

**Ushers:** Bonnie Dewell and Barb Koenig

**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Rita Woodard

**Reader:** Kay Neuharth

**Leader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:**

#### **May 14 Mother's Day/Graduation Recognition**

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Rita Woodard

**Greeters:** Tom McConnell and Chuck Balsiger

**Reader:** Chuck Balsiger

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

#### **May 21**

**Ushers:** Sue Surber and Suzan Podliska

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Scott Williams

**Flowers:**

#### **May 28 Memorial Weekend**

**Ushers:** Randy and Kay Neuharth

**Greeters:** Sue Surber and Barb Koenig

**Reader:** Tom McConnell

**Flowers:** Garry and Suzan Podliska



#### **June 4 Annual Gathering**

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Ushers:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Greeters:** Ed Lindsay and Charlene Fosdick

**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**Leader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:** Jane Uzzell

#### **June 11**

**Ushers:** Tom McConnell and Jane Uzzell

**Greeters:** Kay and Randy Neuharth

**Reader:** Reese Uzzell

**Flowers:** Bonnie Dewell

#### **June 18**

**Ushers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger

**Reader:** Ben Uzzell

**Flowers:** Scott and Lori Williams

#### **June 25**

**Ushers:** Evonne Burkink and Charlene Fosdick

**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams

**Reader:** Randy Neuharth

**Flowers:** Sue Allyn

Please notify the office if you are not able to attend a service.

# April

From 4/1/23 through 4/30/23

The deposit for 4-30 is not included.



## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 4,374.03
OGHS	\$ 100.00
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 9,757.99</u>
Subtotal	\$ 14,232.02
Salary	--\$ 7,007.58
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,845.42
Office Expenses	—\$ 1,026.74
Insurance	—\$ 1,034.20
Substitute Organist	—\$ 70.00
Worship Ministry	—\$ 37.11
Lilies	—\$ 80.00
OCWM. OGHS	—\$ 652.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 978.97



# ► May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Sue out for the day	2 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	3	4	5	6
7 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 2-4 Youth at Animal Shelter 4-7 FH Renewed Hope	8 6 PM Girl Scouts	9 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	10 10 Book club	11	12 Sue out for the day	13
14 9 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Recognize Graduates Mother's Day	15	16 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	17	18	19	20
21 10:15 Worship	22 6 PM Girl Scouts	23 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	24	25	26	27
28 10:15 Worship Pentecost Wear Red to church Christianson FH 12:30-5	29 Sue on vacation	30 Sue on vacation	31 Sue on vacation			

# ▶ June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Sue on vacation	2 Sue on vacation Annual Gathering in Columbus	3 Annual Gathering in Columbus
4 10:15 Worship Renewed Hope 4-7 FH	5	6 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	7	8	9	10
11 10:15 Worship	12 VBS at Trinity 6 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation	13 VBS at Trinity 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation	14 10 Book club Jackie on vacation	15 Jackie on vacation	16 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	17 Jackie on vacation
18 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	19 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	20 Sue out for the day 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	21 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	22 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	23 Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	24 Jackie on vacation
25 10:15 Worship Jackie on vacation	26 6 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	27 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Jackie on vacation Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	28 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	29 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	30 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	